Volume 18, Edition 7 August 2014

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer.

Conditions could be better on the HF bands, but there was a sunspot increase reported on the latest ARRL propagation forecast. There is still some DX to work, especially late in the evening on 20M. These stations were worked a recently, C21BN (Nauru), RG4F (European Russia) and ES25B (Estonia). The last one is a special event station commemorating 25 years since the so called, “Singing Revolution” the start of the independence move from the Soviet Union.

Four of us, Ed, W1EJ, Gordon, W6DDU, Frank, KG6N, and K6UUW. showed up for the monthly Young Eagles event at Sonoma Sky Park. Ed worked several stations as part of the Straight Key weekend. We used Gordon’s portable antenna, a G5RV stuck to a 30ft. mast mounted on the bed of his truck.

Ask Ed at the next meeting about some of the activities done by a club he knows in Michigan.

Thanks to Dave, our application to the city of Sonoma for the free use of the Vets building for Hamfest has been approved.

Looks like there is a 4 el. 20m beam available from REDEXA. Any reasonable offer accepted. Anyone think it might work for our FD?

It seems like the entire western US is burning. See the article on the ARES effort in Tuolumne County. We are in drought conditions. Fifty years ago a fire started up by Nunn’s canyon and burned down toward Boyes Springs. Luckily is never reached the population areas. Keep your batteries charged.

Take a look at this article on the historic voyage of the Kon Tiki.
http://www.arrl.org/news/most-unusual-expedition-ever-to-rely-on-amateur-radio-ended-67-years-ago

Another interesting site if you are into the art of cryptography.
http://www.cryptomuseum.com/index.htm

On Aug. 3, Dave, Craig, Ken and I helped with communications for the At the Crossroads charity hike event on Mt. Tam. The mission of At The Crossroads is to reach out to homeless youth and young adults and work with them to build healthy and fulfilling lives. We set up VHF stations at each of the three rest stops. We started with the local repeater, but found out that simplex worked even better. We even used the sponsor supplied non-ham digital radios and they were adequate. Lastly, we tried FRS radios and performed a lot better that we expected. Lesson learned, all means of communications are in the mix in an emergency.

Lets all put some radio waves in the ether.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING
August 20, 2014, 7:30pm
City of Sonoma EOC
Topic: Show and Tell

Minutes June 18, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:33ish PM by our omnipotent President, Jim Hill, K6UUW

Members present at the meeting were: K6UUW, (Jim), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), KI6DHG (Rachel), NJ6E (Stan), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan), KE6HID (Andrew), KJ6QIQ (Scott), KG6N (Frank), KJ6EIG (Bill), KA2QQO (Declan), WB6TMH (Mike), KF6FZM (Dick), KU6X (Dan), N6KM (Ken), KK6KQY (Billy).

Guest Speaker: KK6IJZ, (Simon).

Minutes from the May meeting were approved (short as they were) with no corrections.

Report from officers:

President: Will cover Field day later in the meeting. There is a volunteer opportunity on August 3 at Mt. Tam. It is in support of a charity hike. Will require 4 or 5 people.

Vice President: Nothing to say?

Treasurer: We currently have $2451.50 dollars in the bank. There were a couple of transactions at the meeting. At Hamfest, so far, the expenses were -$438.75 and the income was $1,451.

Secretary: I have paid for the insurance for next year, but have not received the new policy yet. I paid the security deposit for the Vets Building for Hamfest and sent a letter to the City requesting a free day. The City does not have an agreement in place with the County for free days and we are on the waiting list. We discussed alternatives. The Sonoma Skypark, the Moose Lodge. We are looking for a place with a kitchen so we can serve breakfast. We cannot afford the $2000 rental fee for the Vets building if we are not granted a free day.

ACS: No News.

Radio Officer: Got tubes from NJ6E to get the Hammerlund going. Mike brought in an R600 radio to loan to high school student Oscar.

Website: need to update the net assignments.

Training: Summer recess..

Old Business

Bob Davis, WA6YTW: Jim, Stan and Frank took Bob's gear to a hamfest in Yuba City and sold all the radios. A check for $1400 was sent to Bob's wife Mari.

N6P: This is the Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air event on August 16 and 17. We are waiting for the insurance to renew so that we can send in the paper work to the Park.

VE Session: There is a VE Session scheduled for September 27. It will be held at the Sonoma PD Training Room on 1st Street West.

New Business

Mystery Box: KI6DHG put together a Mystery box. At each meeting people put their name in and the winner is drawn and gets to take home the Mystery box. The winner opens the box and takes one thing out and puts a new thing in. It is all a great mystery! KG6N was the winner of the drawing and has the honor of being the first person to open the box!

KPH Night of Nights: This is a CW event where commercial CW stations come back on the air. It is scheduled for July 12.

Field Day: Field Day is June 28 and 29 from 11AM Saturday to 11AM Sunday. We can start setting up on Friday. There is a BBQ on Saturday and everyone is requested to bring a side dish or a dessert**.** Need to read the rules for the event and invite an elected official.

K6UUW has decided to have a summer recess with no meeting for July. The next meeting is August 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

KK6IJZ, Simon Poulton, made a presentation on Linrad Radio. This is an open source SDR system. Very interesting with lots of opportunities to experiment!

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

Early Efforts on Behalf of "The Amateur Radio Parity Act" H.R. 4969 Bearing Fruit

Initial efforts to secure additional co-sponsors for "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" -- H.R. 4969 -- are starting to produce results. As of August 5, 17 co-sponsors had signed onto the bill, which wasintroduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June. Additional co-sponsors are anticipated. H.R. 4969 would call on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of thePRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The bill's primary sponsor is Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL). It received initial co-sponsorship from Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT), who attended the ARRL National Centennial Convention on July 19 to discuss the measure with visitors and League officials.

"With Congress on break for August, we are encouraging our members to meet with their representatives while [lawmakers] are home on break in their districts, and urge their support for H.R. 4969," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "We're very pleased with the initial response, but the more noise we make, the better our chances." He emphasized that a successful outcome requires as many co-sponsors as possible, and that's where ARRL members come into play in their role as voters and constituents.

Send letters to H.R. 4969 Letter Campaign, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. If e-mailing, include "H.R. 4969" in your subject line. All correspondence must be signed and include the constituent's mailing address. (from ARRL Newsletter)

Field Day Teardown: Keeping it Safe

Now that Field Day is over and knowing we had another safe event it was a bit disheartening for me to be reading through the June issue of QST and see the article by N2EI titled: "Field Day Teardown: Keeping it Safe". It is an article about his club teardown after Field Day and the major disaster they had with an AB-577 mast/tower coming down unintentionally (this is our tower) with a 2 element 40 meter beam attached.

The beam was destroyed and I'm sure the mast suffered some damage. Takedown is always the part of FD that makes me the most nervous. Fortunately, we have done this enough and have several members knowledgeable with the finer points of these masts, that we have never had a major problem.

Please let us all remember to take extra care and get our towers up and down safely. (From REDEXA newsletter)

Upcoming Contests:

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 16 to 0559Z, Aug 17

Ohio QSO Party
1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24

Hawaii QSO Party
0400Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 25

All Asian DX Contest, Phone
0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7

Washington State Salmon Run
1600Z, Sep 20 to 2400Z, Sep 21

CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY
0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28

CQP
1600Z Oct 4 to 2200Z Oct 5th

CQ WW DX, SSB October 25-26, 2014

CQ WW DX, CW November 29-30, 2014

—all items on this page submitted by Jim K6UUW

AMSAT Announces Fox-1C Launch Opportunity and Fund Drive

AMSAT-NA has announced a third-quarter 2015 launch opportunity for its Fox-1C CubeSat and has kicked off a fund drive to cover the costs of putting the Amateur Radio satellite into space. AMSAT reports that it has teamed with Spaceflight Inc for integration and launch servicesutilizing Spaceflight's SHERPA system to put Fox-1C into a sun-synchronous orbit. Spaceflight describes SHERPA as an "in-space tug, which is dedicated to hosting and deploying small and secondary payloads." Fox-1C is the third of four Fox-1 series satellites under development. Fox-1A and RadFXsat/Fox-1B will launch without cost to AMSAT through NASA's Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa) program.

The Phase 1 Fox satellites are 1-Unit CubeSats, each including an analog FM repeater that will permit simple ground stations using a hand-held transceiver and antenna to make contacts through the satellite. The Phase 1 CubeSats also offer high-speed digital mode data communication capability. AMSAT said it plans to release further details on the Fox-1C satellite and the 2015 launch as they become available.

AMSAT has set a fund-raising goal of $125,000 to cover the cost of the launch contract and additional Fox-1C construction and testing materials. Read more. -- *AMSAT News Service, AMSAT website*

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

California Hams Activate to Support Shelter Communications Following Wildfire

Amateur Radio volunteers in California's Tuolumne County assisted local emergency managers and the American Red Cross by supporting communication at a shelter in Groveland, set up in the wake of the ElPortal Fire in Yosemite National Park. The National Park Service reported that the fire got its start in the community of El Portal on July 26, and evacuations were ordered for Foresta and Old El Portal, area campgrounds emptied, and roads closed.

Tuolumne County ARES Emergency Coordinator Carl Croci, NI6Z, reported that several radio amateurs responded. A UHF and VHF repeater were cross-banded to cover the necessary expanse between Fresno, site of the Red Cross Headquarters, and the shelter site in Groveland.

Radio amateurs were able to stand down the following day after a 20 hour communications emergency. Eight pieces of traffic were handled.-- *Thanks to Carl Croci, NI6Z, and Fresno County ARES EC/RACES Radio Officer Glen Caine, N6HEW*

NEW MEGA CAPACITY CAPACITORS

Maxwell Technologies, Inc. has added to the company's K2 series of ultracapacitor cells with a 2.85-volt, **3400-farad** ultracapacitor cell that increases the range of available specific power and stored energy in the industry-standard 60 mm cylindrical 'K2' form factor.

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

New hams are different

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This is going to be a bit of a ramble, but I need to get some thoughts down about new hams, and maybe get some feedback on these ideas from both new hams and guys that have been around for a while.

Recently, I visited the All Hands Active (AHA) makerspace here in Ann Arbor. Several of the "makers" that use this space have recently gotten their ham licenses—-most of them in one of my one-day Tech classes. I was down there trying to get them interested in attending Field Day, and in particular, in operating the GOTA station.

There were four of us sitting around, talking about amateur radio, the projects they were working on, Field Day, and other stuff. In the past, they had also expressed an interest in doing something with WA2HOM, our station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. While it was a great discussion, it was apparent to me that it was going to be difficult to get them out for Field.

It dawned on me that these new radio amateurs were just not interested in the “old” amateur radio. Sitting in front of shortwave radios and exchanging fake signal reports with other guys sitting in front of shortwave radios is just not their idea of a good time. I think that if you take a step back and try to look at it through their eyes, you’ll see where they’re coming from.

What are they interested in? Well, one guy is having a blast playing around with RTL SDR dongles. He’s also trying to figure out a way to rig up wireless link to light a light at bus stops around his house when a bus is approaching. Another is working on a Hinternet-type project. I helped him out a little bit last summer setting up a wireless node at his house.

This is perhaps one reason why there are so many more licensed radio amateurs these days, but yet there seems to be less activity on the HF bands these days. HF is just not where it’s at for these new guys.

One consequence of this is that the old amateur radio clubs don’t have much to offer the new guys. In fact, one of them told me that the one time that he attended the local club meeting, he got such a hostile response that he decided not to return.

I’m finding this all quite interesting. I do intend to pursue some kind of joint activities between the All Hands Active maker group and WA2HOM and see where that goes. They may not be interested in working DX on 20m, but they do seem to be interested in the IRLP node that we’re in the process of installing there.

I’m not sure where this is all headed, but what I do know is that these folks have a lot of energy and creativity. If we can couple that with our knowledge and experience, then I think that we’ll be a good fit for one another. It’s going to take open minds all around, though.

I'm really interested in hearing from all of you about this. Have your clubs made contact with the "makers" in your area? Do any of them have ham radio licenses? Are there any interesting ham radio/maker projects going on in your area?

When he's not thinking about the future of amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

VOMARC at Young Eagles.

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

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VOLUME 18 EDITION 7

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

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Frank Wiebusch, KG6N—Vice President

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Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

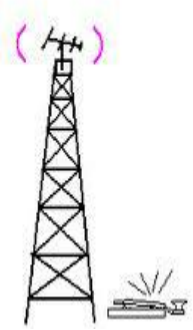
Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

Eight Annual

Sacramento Valley



Hamfest

Saturday, Sept 6, 2014

0700 to 1200 Hours

Presented by Western Placer Amateur Radio Club

65 McBean Park (Hwy. 193), Lincoln CA

Bandstand Parking Lot

License Exam Sessions

Exam Info - Dennis KI6HHA@aol.com

Drawing Prizes

Buy and Sell

Ham Radio Related Stuff Only

$10 per space Approx. 10’ x 10‘

Bring your own tables

Hamfest Info at WWW.WPARC.US

Talk-in Frequency
146.640 (-) 156.7

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Celebrating 100 Years of
Voice over Radio Worldwide

2014 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY	GEORGE	K6ITE
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2014 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	WIEJ
JUNE		
JULY	BILL	KJ6EIG
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	FRANK	KG6N
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 20, 2014, 7:30 PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175 1ST ST W, AT THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT.
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2014 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

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VOMARC: $ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date:_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**